

The Great Outdoors



No matter what kind of outdoor adventure you are looking for, Newport News offers it all! Our moderate climate – not to mention our 30-plus parks – makes Newport News the perfect place to explore year-round. Discover the exhilarating experiences of trail biking, a romantic paddleboat or canoe ride, or a challenging round of championship golf. Reserve one of our 188 modern campsites at Newport News Park. Enjoy a peaceful picnic at sunset, overlooking the mighty James River. Stroll one of our beaches, go bird watching or disc golf. And don't forget the awesome salt-and fresh-water fishing available in our lakes, reservoirs, and the Chesapeake Bay, where you'll find some of the best fishing in Virginia!

Day 1 - Early Arrival

Visit the **Virginia Living Museum**. Part zoo, part aquarium and part planetarium, the Virginia Living Museum is unlike any museum you've ever seen! Stroll the boardwalk along a wooded lake for an up-close look into the lives of many native Virginia animals and plants. Bobcats, foxes, otters and a bird-filled Aviary are just some of the "living" exhibits you'll find there. Join them on an enrichment activity designed to engage and excite our animals. Challenge fellow travelers to a "selfie safari" where you take selfies with as many animals in the background as you can "capture" with your cell phone. Continue your adventure inside the museum. Only here does the great outdoors become the great "indoors" as you experience a steamy Cypress swamp, a cool mountain cave, and the underwater world of the Chesapeake Bay.

Fuel up and replenish your energy level down the street at the **Mariners' Café** inside **The Mariners' Museum and Park**. Then explore the 550-acre woodland park where the five-mile Noland Trail around Mariners' Lake is located. Depending on your energy level, you can run, hike or stroll at a leisurely pace. While on the trail, enjoy the picturesque scenery that includes the famous Lions Bridge with breathtaking views of the James River. The Lions Bridge is one of 14 bridges located on this trail. Although Motorcycles, bicycles, and trail bikes are not permitted on the Noland Trail, Dogs are welcome!

On your way to our next park, stop by **Historic Hilton Village**. The unique architecture of this neighborhood is the perfect backdrop for the eclectic collection of locally owned shops that makes this a "can't miss" experience. Located on the east bank of the James River, Historic Hilton Village is also home to several restaurants.

Ready to take in a beautiful sunset? We recommend a stop at **Huntington Park**. Overlooking the James River, Huntington Park caters to all lovers of the outdoors (even those who just want to relax on a warm, sandy beach!) This park has a wide variety of activities including swimming, boating, tennis, fishing, and an amazing 13,000 square-foot adventure playground, **Fort Fun**. Don't forget to take time to smell the roses as this park features an impressive, sweet-smelling **Rose Garden** with 45 different rose varieties. Finally, of course, enjoy the sunset!

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Day 2 - Another Day In the Park

In the morning, head straight to one of the city's most picturesque spots, Newport News Park. At over 7,000 acres, it is the second largest municipal park in the country, that features an abundance of activities such as hiking, biking, fishing, canoeing, disc golf, archery, camping and more (rental equipment is available for many activities.) Meet one of the rangers in the Discovery Center and learn a variety of topics such as "Owl Prowl", "Those Silly Squirrels", or "Fur Goodness Sake!" It really would be easy to spend your entire day in just this one spot!

Other Outdoors Activities

Bike Trail

In Newport News, our bike trails range from leisurely to challenging, but there's one thing they have in common: scenic views. For recreational biking, visit **Newport News Park**, a 7,700-acre park with water views and a variety of wildlife, cyclists can enjoy a shaded, smooth ride on hard-packed gravel on the **Newport News Park Bikeway Trail**. Here, you can also rent a bike (call 757-886-7777 for more information). Another favorite trail can be found at the **Riverview Farm Park Trail** for a smooth paved ride that's perfect for the whole family. More adventurous riders can explore our mountain bike trails at Harwood's Mill Trail and the **Mariners' Lake Natural Area** that is composed of a natural and single-tracked surface. For serious or leisurely cyclists who want a tour of some of our city's most favored gems, **Route 1** provides more than 17 miles of waterfront riding, from Riverview Farm Park to the Mariner's Museum and Park and Historic Hilton Village.

Golf

Golf Digest stated **Kiln Creek Club & Resort** is one of the five best golf courses in the state of Virginia and recognized the course as being one of the top 100 new courses in America when it opened. The 8th hole is recognized as one of the best 4 par holes in the Mid-Atlantic region by Tee Time Magazine.

Magnificent golf, superb amenities and outstanding service is what you will find at this 36-hole championship golf course at **Newport News Golf Course**. The Deer Run Course is cut among Virginia hardwoods, so players rarely see another group of golfers. Curious white-tail deer and the abundance of wildlife have caused it to be listed on the National Audubon Society Registry. You can also try your game at the Cardinal Course where songbirds nest among thick stands of pine which guard along the length of the 6,645-yard course - hence its name!

Disc Golf

Regardless of age, just about everyone can participate and enjoy disc golf. With an 18-hole regulation and championship course located at Newport News Park, and rental equipment available, disc golf would be a great outdoor choice!